

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A document processing system for modifying image data, the image data
2 including a foreground component and a background component, said document
3 processing system comprising:
 - 4 an image enhancement system configured to receive image data, receive
5 information corresponding to a request for modification of the image data, and, in
6 response to the request, modify the image data by increasing contrast between the
7 foreground component and the background component and altering lightness of both
8 the foreground component and the background component.

- 1 2. The document processing system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 an actuator communicating with said image enhancement system, said actuator
3 having an actuated state corresponding to the request for modification of the image
4 data.

- 1 3. The document processing system of claim 2, wherein said actuator is
2 implemented via a graphical user interface.

- 1 4. The document processing system of claim 3, further comprising:
 - 2 a document processing device communicating with said image enhancement
3 system, said document processing device being configured to produce a document
4 with the image data, said document processing device including said actuator.

1 5. The document processing system of claim 4, wherein said document
2 processing device is selected from the group consisting of: a copier, a scanner, a
3 printer, and a multi-function device.

1 6. The document processing system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancement
2 system is configured to modify the image data incrementally, such that, at a first
3 increment, the image data is modified by increasing contrast between the foreground
4 component and the background component.

1 7. The document processing system of claim 6, at said first increment, lightness
2 of only one of the foreground component and the background component is increased.

1 8. The document processing system of claim 6, wherein, at said first increment,
2 lightness of only one of the foreground component and the background component is
3 decreased.

1 9. The document processing system of claim 6, wherein, at said first increment,
2 lightness of only one of the foreground component and the background component is
3 altered, and at a second increment, the image data is modified by altering lightness of
4 the other of the foreground component and background component such that overall
5 lightness of the image data is altered.

1 10. The document processing system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancement
2 system is configured to separate the image data into a color component and a lightness
3 component and modify only the lightness component of the image data.

1 11. The document processing system of claim 10, wherein said image
2 enhancement system is configured to receive the image data in RGB format, convert
3 the image data to one of Lightness Hue Chroma and Lightness a b format, and convert
4 the image data to RGB format after modification.

1 12. The document processing system of claim 10, further comprising:
2 means for producing a document with the image data.

1 13. A method for modifying image data, the image data including a foreground
2 component and a background component, said method comprising:
3 receiving image data;
4 receiving information corresponding to a request for modification of the image
5 data; and
6 in response to the request, modifying the image data by increasing contrast
7 between the foreground component and the background component and altering
8 lightness of both the foreground component and background component.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 providing a graphical user interface; and
3 wherein the request for modification of the image data is facilitated via the
4 graphical user interface.

1 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 producing a document with the image data.

1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein modifying the image data includes
2 modifying the image data incrementally, such that, at a first increment, the image data
3 is modified by increasing contrast between the foreground component and the
4 background component.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein, at the first increment, lightness of only one
2 of the foreground component and the background component is increased.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein, at the first increment, lightness of only one
2 of the foreground component and the background component is decreased.

1 19. The method of claim 13, wherein modifying the image data incrementally
2 includes:

3 altering lightness of only one of the foreground component and the
4 background component at the first increment; and
5 altering lightness of the other of the foreground component and background
6 component at a second increment such that overall lightness of the image data is
7 altered.

1 20. The method of claim 13, wherein modifying the image data includes:
2 separating the image data into a color component and a lightness component;
3 and
4 modifying only the lightness component of the image data.